National Park Service Northeast Region

Pennsylvania Parks and Partnerships





Total acreage of National Parks in Pennsylvania: 158,175 acres

Federal land: 67,019 acres

Nonfederal land: 91,156 acres

(This includes all acreage for the three interstate parks with land in Pennsylvania.)



Black bear taking a swim at Delaware Water Gap NRA. (Malcolm Wilbur, NPS)

National Parks in the Northeast Region

Marie Rust Regional Director

NATIONAL PARK UNITS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvanians have sixteen National Park units including three National Scenic and Recreational Rivers and part of the Appalachian Trail to share with visitors and enjoy with family and friends.

ALLEGHENY PORTAGE RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Traces of the first railroad crossing of the Allegheny Mountains can still be seen here. Using an inclined plane railroad, Allegheny Portage permitted transportation of passengers and freight over the mountains providing a critical link in the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal system and with the West. Built between 1831 and 1834, it was abandoned by 1857. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/alpo

DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA; MIDDLE DELAWARE NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER

This scenic and historic area preserves relatively unspoiled land on both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania sides of the Middle Delaware National Scenic River. The river segment flows through the famous gap in the Appalachian Mountains. Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of recreational activities such as canoeing, camping, horseback riding, cross country skiing and more. The park is also home to a crafts center and several environmental education centers. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/dewa

EDGAR ALLEN POE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

This is the 1840s home of Edgar Allan Poe, one of America's finest and most influential writers. The small brick house now connected to 530 North Seventh Street was Poe's home, 1843-1844. During the six years (1838-1844) that Poe lived in Philadelphia, he attained his greatest successes as an editor and critic, and he published some of his most famous tales, including, "The Gold Bug," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue". To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/edal

EISENHOWER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

This was the only home ever owned by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and his

wife, Mamie. It served as a refuge when he was President and as a retirement home after he left office. To learn more about Eisenhower NHS go to: www.nps.gov/eise

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The September 11, 2001 crash of Flight 93 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and



President Eisenhower and wife Mamie at Gettysburg House in 1956

the passengers and crew who courageously gave their lives, is commemorated at this National Memorial. The Flight 93 Advisory Commission is undertaking the creation of this National Memorial, which is not yet open to the public.

FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Colonial troops commanded by 22-year-old Colonel George Washington were defeated in this small stockade at the "Great Meadow." This opening battle of the French and Indian War began a seven year struggle between Great Britain and France for control of North America. Great Britain's success in this war helped pave the way for the American Revolution. Fort Necessity National Battlefield is located in southwestern Pennsylvania about 11 miles east of Uniontown. The park comprises approximately 900 acres in three separate sites. The main unit contains the visitor center, the battlefield with the reconstructed Fort Necessity, and the Mount Washington Tavern. The Braddock Grave unit is approximately 1.5 miles west of the main unit and the Jumonville Glen unit is approximately seven miles northwest of the main unit. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/fone

FRIENDSHIP HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The park preserves the country estate of Albert Gallatin, a Swiss emigrant who served his adopted nation during the early years of the republic. Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations in which he reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's contributions to the late 18th and early 19th century American Republic are highlighted through exhibits and programs presented in his restored Friendship Hill house. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/frhi

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Located 50 miles northwest of Baltimore, the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was the site of the largest Civil War battle ever waged in the Western Hemisphere. The Battle of Gettysburg opened on July 1, 1863 and closed two days later with the climactic "Pickett's Charge." It resulted in a Union victory for the Army of the Potomac and successfully turned back the second invasion of the North by General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Over 51,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or captured, making it the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. It was also a major turning point in the war. Historians have referred to the Battle of Gettysburg as the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy." It was the last major effort by Lee to take the fighting out of Virginia and into northern states. The Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg contains more than 7,000

interments including over 3,500 from the Civil War. It was here that President Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/gett

HOPEWELL FURNACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is one of the finest examples of a rural American 19th century iron plantation. The buildings include a blast

Pennsylvania Population: 12.287.150

PARK VISITATION (RECREATIONAL) IN 2001:

Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS 137,543

Delaware Water Gap NRA 4,796,824

Edgar Allen Poe NHS 8,706

Eisenhower NHS 75,743

Fort Necessity NB 95,817

Friendship Hill NHS 33.148

Gettysburg NMP 1,779,610

Hopewell Furnace NHS 65,437

Independence NP 2,930,347

Johnstown Flood NM 131,316

Steamtown NHS 138,272

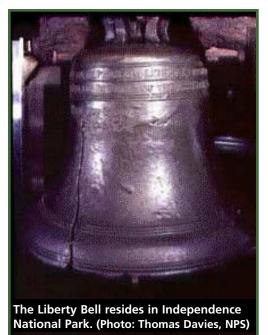
Thaddeus Kosciuszko NM 7,920

Upper Delaware NSRR 304,207

Valley Forge NHP 1,295,121



Visitors are treated to a variety of interpretive programs at Hopewell Furnace. Life in the 19th Century is 'relived' from the pouring of molten iron to the wares in shops to domestic industry and homelife of the owner, hired workers, and slaves.



furnace, the ironmaster's mansion, and auxiliary structures. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is surrounded by French Creek State Park which preserves the lands the furnace used for its natural resources. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/hofu

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL PARK

Independence National Historical Park, located in downtown (called "Center City"), Philadelphia, is often referred to as the birthplace of our nation. At the park, visitors can see the Liberty Bell, an international symbol of freedom, and Independence Hall, a World Heritage Site where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were created. In addition, the park interprets events and the lives of the diverse population during the years when Philadelphia was the capital of the United States from 1790 to 1800. A section of the park where Benjamin Franklin's home once stood is dedicated to teaching about Franklin's life and accomplishments. Spanning approximately 45 acres, the park has about 20 buildings open to the public. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/inde

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The story of the Johnstown Flood has everything to interest the modern mind: a wealthy resort, an intense storm, an unfortunate failure of a dam, the destruction of a working class city, and an inspiring relief effort. The rain continued as men worked tirelessly to prevent the old South Fork Dam from breaking. When it finally happened, at 3:10 P.M., May 31, 1889, an era of the Conemaugh Valley's history ended, and another era started. Over 2,209 people died on that tragic Friday, and thousands more were injured in one of the worst disasters in our Nation's history. Learn more at: www.nps.gov/jofl

STEAMTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

At Steamtown, visitors experience a part of American railroading that hasn't existed for nearly a century – the era of the steam locomotive. Steamtown National Historic Site was established to further public understanding and appreciation of the role steam railroading played in the development of the United States. It is the only place in the National Park System where the story of steam railroading, and the people who made it possible, is told. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/stea

Read eyewitness accounts of the 1889 Johnstown Flood at the park's web site:

www.nps.gov/jofl/witness.htm





Union Pacific Big Boy #4012, which can be seen at Steamtown National Historic Site. The Big Boys were built for power. They did the work of three smaller engines, pulling 120-car, 3800 ton freight trains at forty miles per hour in the mountains of Utah and Wyoming.

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL MEMORIAL

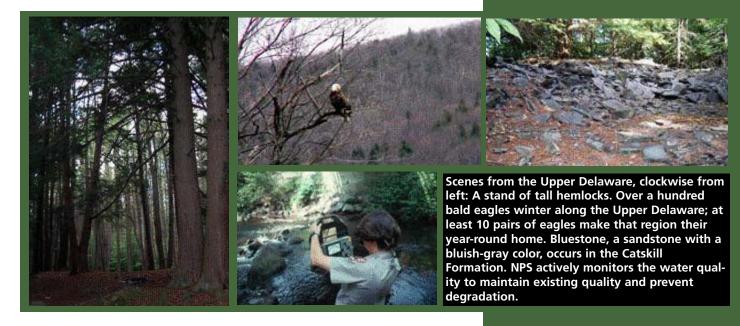
Born of impoverished landed gentry in the eastern Polish province of Polesie on February 4, 1746, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a military engineer, became one of the 18th century's greatest champions of American and Polish freedom. One of the first foreign volunteers to come to the aid of the American revolutionary army, Kosciuszko made many significant contributions to the American Revolution including

the fortifications at Saratoga and West Point. The two worlds of Kosciuszko were in sharp contrast. The revolution he helped lead in Poland in the early 1790's was crushed; although an exile from Poland, Kosciuszko was a hero in the United States. The life and work of this Polish-born patriot are commemorated here. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/thko

For information about the PA state park system, see: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks

UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER

As a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River stretches 73.4 miles (118.3 km) along the New York-Pennsylvania border. The longest free-flowing river in the Northeast, it includes riffles and Class I and II rapids between placid pools and eddies. Public fishing and boating accesses are provided, although most land along the river is privately owned. Wintering bald eagles may be seen here. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/upde



VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Few places evoke the spirit of patriotism and independence, represent individual and collective sacrifice, or demonstrate the resolve, tenacity and determination of the people of the United States to be free, as does Valley Forge. Here, despite setbacks and hardships, the Continental Army under General George Washington's leadership built upon its growing military competence. Through intensive training, the army honed its skills and became a professional force that marched on to victory over the British and secured America's independence in 1783. To learn more go to: www.nps.gov/vafo

For more about National Parks served by the Northeast Region contact:

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Huts mark the site where Gen. Peter Muhlenberg's Brigade anchored the outer line of defense at Valley Forge.

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All photos NPS unless noted. December, 2002